

[July 2008 article in the Baltimore Sun](#)

Breaking news: FDA revises its position on dental amalgams

Date: 6/5/2008 2:49:06 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time

FDA revises its position on dental amalgams

The FDA has settled a lawsuit that sought to have mercury fillings banned from the U.S. market, and in the process has revised its position regarding dental amalgams. The agency is now warning on its Web site that amalgams contain mercury, which may have neurotoxic effects on developing children and fetuses. As part of the settlement, the FDA must officially classify amalgam as a type of medical device by July 2009, which could lead to more stringent regulation of the substance.

[Click here to read the rest of the article.](#)

FOX News and CA TV

FDA and Mercury – Dental Danger

<http://news.search.yahoo.com/search/news?ei=UTF-8&fr=slv8-&p=fda+%26+mercury&c=av>

Philadelphia Inquirer

By Marie McCullough, 06/06/2008

Article

In shift, FDA says mercury fillings may harm some



Marie McCullough (Inquirer) 06/06/2008

...to mercury exposure. "**Dental** amalgams contain mercury...warnings prohibiting use of the **fillings** in some people. While...recommend removal of old mercury **fillings**. But it advises patients...and other materials used for **fillings** are more expensive and not...vapor is released when the **filling** is placed, removed, and...

Pregnant Women, Children Cautioned on Dental Mercury (Update1)

Bloomberg - Jun 5, 2008

By Avram Goldstein June 5 (Bloomberg) -- The mercury in dental fillings may have toxic effects on fetuses and young children, US regulators said for the ...

fillings and flip-flops

MLive.com, MI - 21 hours ago

After years of asserting that mercury in fillings was safe, the Food and Drug

Administration now says it may be harmful to pregnant women, children, ...

Pregnant Women, Children Cautioned on Dental Mercury (Update1)

Bloomberg - Jun 5, 2008

By Avram Goldstein June 5 (Bloomberg) -- The mercury in dental fillings may have toxic effects on fetuses and young children, US regulators said for the

...

'Silver' mercury fillings may harm pregnant women

Chicago Tribune, United States - Jun 5, 2008

Amalgam or 'silver' dental fillings contain mercury which may have neurotoxic effects on the nervous systems of developing children and fetuses, ...



FDA: Mercury Dental Fillings May Be Harmful to some

FOXNews - Jun 5, 2008

Silver-colored dental fillings containing mercury may be harmful to pregnant women, children and fetuses, the US Food and Drug Administration said Wednesday ...

Mercury fillings pose health risks, FDA warns

CBC.ca, Canada - Jun 5, 2008

Mercury in dental amalgams may pose health risks to children, fetuses and pregnant women, the US Food and Drug Administration is warning. ...



Toxic Fillings : FDA Alerts Against Mercury

TheMedGuru, India - 4 hours ago

by Ishpreet Bindra Now every time you go to your dentist to get your 'pearlies' repaired, be very sure of what stuff he fills in, to get them back in shape. ...

Mercury Drama: FDA Settles Dental Filling Lawsuit

Medgadget.com, CA - 18 hours ago

The FDA settled a lawsuit yesterday and agreed to complete a regulatory review on the dangers of Mercury amalgam dental fillings. The FDA also updated some ...

FDA: Mercury in fillings can be dangerous

WSBT-TV, IN - 20 hours ago

By Beth Boehne It's cause for concern for pregnant women and children who have certain dental fillings. The FDA says mercury in the fillings could affect ...

Mercury in Dental Fillings: What You Need to Know

News Locale, India - 21 hours ago

FRIDAY, June 6, (News Locale) - Ever since dental amalgam or "silver" fillings gained popularity, there has been widespread concern about the effects of ...



Dental Fillings Possible Risk Says FDA

Ontario Now, Canada - 23 hours ago

Washington, DC-After a number of different court cases and considerable pressure the FDA is now saying that the mercury that is present in amalgam dental ...



FDA to Investigate Possible Risks of Mercury Dental Fillings

eFluxMedia - 23 hours ago

By Anna Boyd Following a lawsuit filed by a number of consumer advocacy groups looking to eliminate the use of mercury in dental fillings, the US Food and ...



Health Risk in Dental Fillings Confirmed

Daily Green - Jun 6, 2008

By Dan Shapley After years of denial, the Food and Drug Administration is now acknowledging that mercury used in dental fillings could pose a health risk to ...

FDA Says Silver Dental Fillings Containing Mercury Dangerous For ...

AHN - Jun 6, 2008

Washington DC (AHN) - Silver dental fillings containing mercury may have neurotoxic effects on the nervous systems of developing children and fetuses, ...



Dental amalgams dangerous to pregnant women and children

Pravda, Russia - Jun 6, 2008

Dental fillings of silver color may be poisonous to pregnant women, fetuses and children due to their mercury content, the US Food and Drug Administration ...

FDA Warns Of Mercury Dental Fillings

HULIQ (press release), NC - Jun 6, 2008

FDA has issued a warning of dental fillings with mercury. The amalgams may pose health risk to those with weakened immune system. Mercury is known to cause ...

Mercury Fillings may Harm Pregnant Women, FDA Says

MedIndia, India - Jun 6, 2008

The Food and Drug Administration said on Wednesday that mercury fillings in teeth may harm pregnant women as well as fetuses. FDA spokeswoman Peper Long ...

FDA: Possible Risk From Dental Fillings

WebMD - Jun 5, 2008

By Daniel J. DeNoon June 5, 2008 -- Mercury from amalgam dental fillings may be toxic to children and developing fetuses, the FDA now admits. ...



[Mercury In Dental Fillings Dangerous For Pregnant Women](#)

Dog Flu Diet and Diseases, Canada - Jun 5, 2008

June 5 2008 - Silver coloured dental fillings that contain mercury may pose health risks to women who are pregnant, children and fetuses. ...

[Mercury Dental Fillings Not As Safe As Once Thought](#)

MedHeadlines, IL - Jun 5, 2008

In what's been called a complete about-face, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a statement saying metal dental fillings, which are about ...



[Mercury Dental Fillings Might Harm Pregnant Women](#)

eFluxMedia - Jun 5, 2008

By John Wolper The FDA has announced that it will investigate whether mercury dental fillings are harmful to pregnant women, little children or fetuses. ...

[Mercury in your Amalgam May Harm Pregnancy](#)

HULIQ (press release), NC - Jun 5, 2008

FDA says "Dental amalgams contain mercury, which may have neurotoxic effects on the nervous systems of developing children and fetuses. ...

[FDA Deals With Mercury Amalgams, Dental Fillings](#)

eMaxHealth.com, NC - Jun 5, 2008

Dental Fillings are finally noted as not without problems - the FDA has been blind for over a decade. Now their vision is 40/40 but, that's an improvement.

...

[US FDA Admits Risks of Mercury Dental Fillings, Settles Lawsuit](#)

Earthtimes (press release), UK - Jun 5, 2008

WASHINGTON , June 5 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- "After 32 years of delay, the Food and Drug Administration has finally agreed to comply with the law and set ...

[FDA Finally Takes a Stand on Mercury... Sort Of,](#)

Agency Promises to Make a Decision Next Year

By Jim Du Molin, The Wealthy Dentist.com

June 10th, 2008 Julia Frey Posted in [Legal](#), [US](#) |

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has long avoided taking a public stand on the safety or danger of mercury in silver dental fillings. However, with a recent settlement in a lawsuit brought by the organization Moms Against Mercury, *the governmental health agency has finally agreed to take a stand on the issue.* Eventually.

<http://www.thewealthydentist.com/blog/310/fda-takes-a-stand-on-mercury/>

[Mercury Tooth Fillings: FDA Does an About Face](#)

Newsweek - USA

In a legal settlement, the US Food and Drug Administration has changed the information on its Web site about **amalgam**

fillings to say that they "may have ...

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FDA notice is vindication for AF dentist

Daily Herald - Provo,UT,USA

The news is vindication to American Fork dentist Dr. Michelle Jorgensen, who stopped using **amalgam fillings** 10 years ago because of the controversy ...

[See all stories on this topic](#)

No warning on mercury fillings risk

New Zealand Herald - New Zealand

It also said there was no scientific evidence that the placement or removal of **amalgam fillings** during pregnancy was harmful. There was also no scientific ...

[See all stories on this topic](#)

You May Need to Think Twice About Those Silver Fillings

HealthNews - Carlsbad,CA,USA

Silver-colored **fillings**, officially known as **amalgam fillings**, contain mercury and have been used by dentists for over a hundred years to treat cavities in ...

[See all stories on this topic](#)

35

A Mouthful of Toxins

Examiner.com - USA

My youngest has terrible teeth, and after many lectures on the subject of why **amalgam fillings** are totally safe, and paying astronomical dental bills, ...

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FDA: Mercury Dental Fillings May Be Harmful to Some

FOXNews - USA

The **FDA**, in its settlement, agreed to alert consumers about the risks on its Web site and to issue a more specific rule for **fillings** that contain mercury by ...

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Facing lawsuit, FDA reviews amalgam

5/7/2008

By: [Salley Shannon](#)

Should pregnant women and parents of small children be warned against amalgam restorations? Should dental assistants or dentists themselves? After tussling with such questions periodically since 1980, the FDA is once again asking for public comments.

The 90-day comment period, which began April 28, 2008, and will end July 28, 2008, will focus on new labeling requirements that the agency first proposed in 2002.

Why solicit comments now after years of silence? No one at the FDA responded to requests for an interview on that question. In an e-mail to *DrBicuspid.com*, FDA spokesperson Peper Long wrote, "Based on this high number of comments as well as the discussion of the available medical literature at a 2006 Advisory Committee meeting, we decided to reopen the comment period for additional input from the public."

Many of the comments in 2006 -- which numbered more than 2,000 -- came from [Consumers for Dental Choice](#), [Moms](#)

[Against Mercury](#), and other plaintiffs who filed suit in federal district court last December to halt the use of amalgam filling. In mid-March, the groups offered to suspend legal action if the FDA took steps to further regulate dental amalgam.

The plaintiffs argue that the agency has been legally required to re-examine the classification of amalgam and has never done so, despite repeated promises that it was working on it to members of Congress and even to an Appeals Court judge last year. The plaintiffs also want the FDA to prepare an environmental assessment.

On May 7, Charles G. Brown, attorney for Consumers for Dental Choice, said he had filed for an injunction against the use of amalgam until the FDA regulates the substance. He said a hearing is scheduled May 16 in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia at 2 p.m.

Freya Koss, an amalgam critic who has testified before FDA advisory groups and Congress, called the new 90-day comment period "just another stalling tactic" that she predicted "will come back to bite them."

ADA spokespersons also declined to be interviewed on the topic. "The ADA welcomes additional review of scientific studies on the safety of dental amalgam fillings," spokesperson Lydia Hall wrote in an e-mail.

So what would the new regulations mean? At the moment, amalgam is in an FDA device category (Category I) that essentially means it is unregulated. The 2002 proposed rule would put amalgam in Category II, where it would get more scrutiny.

More specifically, the agency proposed that dental amalgam products list their exact ingredients on their labels. "By doing so," the FDA proposal states, "the clinician would be made aware of all materials he/she is placing in a patient's mouth, and would be able to avoid use of the product if the patient had known hypersensitivities to ingredients in amalgam products."

Now the FDA is asking whether labels should also warn against amalgam restorations in "in sensitive subpopulations composed of individuals who respond biologically at lower levels of exposure to mercury than the general population."

Who might be included in such subpopulations? The agency wants advice on that, as well: "If so, which subpopulations should be included (e.g., children under age 6, pregnant and lactating women, hypersensitive or immunocompromised individuals)?"

The agency has struggled for years to reach a definitive conclusion on such measures. In 2004, an FDA panel determined that there was no evidence of risk from dental amalgam -- even to pregnant women -- but a 2006 committee disagreed. A FDA Web site meant for consumers notes "the possibility that dental amalgam could pose health risks that are not yet scientifically known."

In answer to a question about whether pregnant women should get them, the FDA Web site says, "The recent advisory panel believed that there was not enough information to answer this question."

Some U.S. jurisdictions already require warnings that pregnant women and the parents of children be warned that amalgam contains mercury, which can cause birth defects.

In the meantime, pressure is mounting to restrict amalgam for environmental reasons. Late last year, before a hearing of House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, ADA representative Rod Mackert, D.M.D., Ph.D., told the committee that no law is needed to force dentists to put mercury-trapping devices in their wastewater systems because ADA is urging members to do it voluntarily. Dr. Mackert, a professor at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, said the ADA has added amalgam recycling to its "Best Practices" recommendations.

The ADA and state dental associations often find themselves attempting to fight off state and local regulations that would require dentists to recycle. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 12 states now spell out disposal guidelines for dental practices, and nine do for hospitals, which also use devices containing mercury. Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Canada all have restricted amalgam use. What happens in the U.S. will depend -- at least in some measure -- on the next three months of comments.

Want to chime in? Find out how to submit comments to the FDA [here](#).

Friday, June 13, 2008 9:14 AM PDT

[FDA warns about silver fillings for some](#)

MSNBC Fri, 13 Jun 2008 8:32 AM PDT

Silver **dental fillings** contain **mercury**, and the government for the first time is warning that they may pose a safety concern for pregnant women **and** young children. The **Food and Drug Administration** posted the precaution on its Web site earlier this month, to settle a lawsuit — making the move a victory for anti-**mercury** activists.

[Dental mercury threat remains in question](#)

The Oklahoman Thu, 12 Jun 2008 10:14 PM PDT

WASHINGTON — Silver **dental fillings** contain **mercury**, and the government for the first time is warning that they may pose a safety concern for pregnant women **and** young children. The **Food and Drug Administration** posted the precaution on its Web site earlier this month, to settle a lawsuit. The warning is not aimed at the general population, only at two groups already urged to limit **mercury** from ...

[FDA issues precautionary note on silver fillings](#)

The Oklahoman Thu, 12 Jun 2008 4:27 PM PDT

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Silver **dental fillings** contain **mercury**, and the government for the first time is warning that they may pose a safety concern for pregnant women **and** young children. The **Food and Drug Administration** posted the precaution on its Web site earlier this month, to settle a lawsuit - making the move a victory for anti-**mercury** activists. The warning is not aimed at the general ...

[FDA issues precautionary note on silver fillings](#)

The San Luis Obispo Tribune Thu, 12 Jun 2008 11:26 AM PDT

Silver **dental fillings** contain **mercury**, and the government for the first time is warning that they may pose a safety concern for pregnant women **and** young children. The **Food and Drug Administration** posted the precaution on its Web site earlier this month, to settle a lawsuit - making the move a victory for anti-**mercury** activists. The warning is not aimed at the general population, only at two ...

Saturday, June 14, 2008 6:15 AM PDT

[FDA issues warning on silver dental fillings](#)

People's Daily Fri, 13 Jun 2008 7:40 PM PDT

Silver dental **fillings**, officially known as amalgam **fillings**, contain **mercury** that may pose a safety concern for pregnant women and young children, warned the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (**FDA**) as quoted by media reports Friday. ...

[FDA warns about silver fillings for some](#)

MSNBC Fri, 13 Jun 2008 8:32 AM PDT

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[FDA Issues Precautionary Note on Silver Fillings](#)

InteliHealth Fri, 13 Jun 2008 6:30 AM PDT

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Silver dental **fillings** contain **mercury**, and the government for the first time is warning that they may pose a safety concern for pregnant women and young children.

Friday, June 13, 2008 6:15 AM PDT

[FDA warns of mercury in fillings](#)

Seattle Times Fri, 13 Jun 2008 0:46 AM PDT

Silver dental **fillings** contain **mercury**, and the government for the first time is warning they might pose a safety concern for pregnant women...

[FDA issues precautionary note on mercury in fillings](#)

The Star Press Fri, 13 Jun 2008 0:23 AM PDT

WASHINGTON — Silver dental **fillings** contain **mercury**, and the government for the first time is warning that they may pose a safety concern for pregnant women and young children.

[FDA issues precautionary note on silver fillings](#)

AP via Yahoo! News Thu, 12 Jun 2008 8:37 PM PDT

Silver dental **fillings** contain **mercury**, and the government for the first time is warning that they may pose a safety concern for pregnant women and young children. The Food and Drug Administration posted the precaution on its Web site earlier this month, to settle a lawsuit — making the move a victory for anti-**mercury** activists.

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